



City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Department of Transportation

Goran Sparrman, Interim Director

Director's Report for Transportation Committee

April 22, 2014

CURRENT ISSUES

- Personnel Changes
 - Lenda Crawford's last day as Deputy Director and Director of Resource Management was April 15. She is leaving to take a deputy position with the Snohomish County Executive.
 - Barbara Gray, the Street Use and Urban Forestry director, will step in as an interim replacement for Lenda.
 - Greg Izzo, currently the Operations Director for Street Use and Urban Forestry, will serve as the interim director of that division.
 - Steve Pratt, director of the Street Maintenance Division, had previously announced his retirement, which will take effect at the beginning of June. Supervising Civil Engineer for the division, Liz Sheldon, will take over on an interim basis upon Steve's retirement.
 - All appointments are interim, pending selection of a permanent SDOT director.
- Bicycle Master Plan
 - Council Transportation Committee voted to recommend adoption of Bicycle Master Plan Update on April 8. This is the culmination of a two-year planning process led by SDOT that has involved a number of City staff, Boards and Commissions, and members of the community. The resolution calls for SDOT to develop a 3-5 year implementation plan within 90 days of the Mayor's concurrence on the resolution, so this would be brought forward for review by the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board and City Council by early summer.
- WMBE Contracting
 - SDOT is committed to: (1) re-invigorating the importance and authority of the WMBE/small business advisor role; (2) policy development for inclusion plan expectations and scoring; (3) further building of relationships between our SDOT contracting groups and the Finance and Administrative Services Department, (4) creating robust system of accountability for progress; and (5) development of a new stakeholder group of small businesses to help us become attuned to the challenges and concerns of the community. Goran and Lorelei Williams, as well as Nancy Locke from FAS, presented our internal assessment of SDOT's WMBE program and the recommendations for improving the program at Council Briefing on Monday, April 21.
- SR 520
 - SDOT is developing a work plan with WSDOT to resolve outstanding Westside design issues in anticipation of the 2015 legislative session.

- Mayor's Neighborhood Summit
 - Director's Office, Street Use and Urban Forestry, Traffic Management and Street Maintenance Divisions all participated in the Mayor's Neighborhood Summit and found it to be a great opportunity to build relationships with residents who came with questions and concerns about safety and street conditions. Street Maintenance Division staff is following up on possible repairs that were brought to our attention by people attending the event

DIVISION ACTIVITIES

Policy and Planning

- Northgate Light Rail Station Non-Motorized Access TIGER Grant Application:
 - SDOT staff from several divisions are collaborating on a \$15M federal TIGER grant application to match funds already committed by Sound Transit and the City for the Northgate Ped/Bike Bridge connecting North Seattle Community College across I-5 to the Sound Transit light rail station and King County's proposed Transit Oriented Development project. The combined funds would also pay for several other non-motorized access projects agreed to by Sound Transit, King County and the City of Seattle.
- Puget Sound Bike Share:
 - The month of May will bring more community events including further announcements about the launch and 12 community planning workshops to solicit input on bike share locations.

Capital Projects and Roadway Structures

- Holman Road Paving:
 - SDOT is repaving 1.3 miles of Holman Rd adding three medians and making pedestrian safety improvements from Greenwood Ave N to NW 87th St. During the second half of the project, Holman Road will be fully closed during four weekend nights to allow repair of bridge expansion joints. This project is expected to be finished by the end of the summer.

Street Use and Urban Forestry

- Additional 2014 Parklets following Panel Review:
 - The Parklet Review Committee reconsidered three of the applications to SDO T Pilot Parklet Program. The panel recommended adding 3 to the 10 already selected as part of the 2014 pilot extension:
 - Chuck's Hop Shop in the Central District (2001 E Union St)
 - Harbour Pointe Coffeehouse in Madison Valley (2818 E Madison St) — pending final review by Traffic Management Division
 - Equilibrium Fitness in West Seattle (3270 California Ave SW) — pending final review by Traffic Management Division

Street Maintenance

- Repair Work for West Seattle Microsurfacing Project:
 - In early February, Street Maintenance Asphalt Paving crews began preparing streets in Arbor Heights and Fauntleroy to receive a microsurfacing sealcoat this summer. Microsurfacing is a

preventative maintenance treatment that extends the life of pavement while it is still in good condition.

Traffic Management

- Spring Mini-Grant Funding Round Now Open for Safe Routes to School Projects:
 - SDOT is now accepting applications for mini-grants of up to \$1,000 to fund projects that educate students about pedestrian and bicycle safety and encourage walking and biking to school. Mini-grants have helped schools and non-profit organizations to start student safety patrols, install pedestrian crossing flags, host walk and bike to school month activities, lead walking school buses and bike trains and educate kids on bike safety.
- Free-Floating Car Share Pilot Program Report:
 - As required by the 2012 Free Floating Car Share Pilot Program legislation, SDOT submitted a report on the first year of free floating car share operations to the Seattle City Council. The report included a summary of curb space use by car2go, the only free-floating car share operator currently in Seattle and a review of car2go member travel behaviors. The report also recommended further evaluation of free-floating car share's effects on Seattle's transportation system and a review of existing permit caps and the possibility of additional operators and consideration of citywide service areas in Seattle.
- Green Lane Project City:
 - Seattle has been selected to be one of six U.S. cities to be a Green Lane Project City by PeopleforBikes.
 - The PeopleforBikes team was in Seattle April 7-9 for site visits and meetings with SDOT staff. They will hold a kickoff event in Indianapolis in April with all of the 2014 Green Lane Project cities, including Atlanta, Boston, Denver, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh and Seattle. Launched in 2012, the Green Lane Project works with cities to speed installation of protected bike lanes around the country. Seattle will receive financial, strategic and technical assistance for two years to create protected bike facilities that will increase vitality in urban centers. New York City has achieved this goal with construction of the 9th Avenue protected bike lane project. Its 9th Avenue corridor saw an increase of 49 percent in retail sales following construction of protected bike lanes compared to a three percent increase citywide. In its application, Seattle identified the Center City Bicycle Network, with protected bike lanes on 2nd and/or 4th Avenues, as a transformational project that will open downtown Seattle and its jobs, housing, recreation and shopping opportunities to people who do not currently feel comfortable cycling in downtown. SDOT launched the project by issuing an RFQ on March 7th for consultant services to begin study and design for the project.
- Latona Ave NE and NE 50th Ave Safety Improvements:
 - This project was chosen for its connection between the Burke-Gilman Trail, Wallingford and Green Lake, and neighborhoods to the north. On-street bicycle facilities exist south of NE 45th St and north of NE 50th St. The project adds a bike lane and bike box.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- **Community Discussion Continues on SDOT Paid Parking Program:** On Wednesday, SDOT attended the Ballard Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Committee to discuss our Performance-Based Parking Pricing program and Ballard-specific results from the 2013 Annual Paid Parking Study. This is part of a broader outreach effort to discuss the paid parking program policies and data collection results with downtown and neighborhood chambers representatives in anticipation of upcoming 2014 parking rates adjustments. The next major outreach milestone is the Parking Sounding Board meeting on April 24. Staff continue to work on the report to City Council to request lifting the budget proviso on pay station funds, with an expected briefing at the May 13 Council Transportation meeting.
- **Leaning Heritage Street Tree on Broadway Removed:** SDOT Urban Forestry successfully completed the removal of a very large leaning tree this past weekend. The work caused no significant traffic or private property impacts. SDOT's Bridge and Roadway Structures group brought in a crane team on day two of the removal, working alongside the tree crew so that the sizable trunk could be safely removed and salvaged. Several area residents contacted City Council regarding the decision to remove the tree, and SDOT Arborists were on hand to respond to concerns. The large Raywood Ash was planted approximately 40 years ago, as its many rings will attest, and was accepted as a Best in City [Heritage Tree](#), along with its counterpart just south of it. Ultimately, the leaning tree showed too much shift in root structure and trunk position of approximately 45 degrees to safely or practically remain. The Capitol Hill Blog reported on the tree removal, with public comment reflecting a general acceptance of the need to remove the tree.



- **West Woodland Safe Routes to School Meeting:** SDOT will hold an open house at West Woodland Elementary School to explain safety improvements planned at the intersection of 3rd Ave NW, NW 55th Pl and NW 56th St. The meeting will be on April 23 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the school library located at 5601 4th Ave NW.
- **University District Alley Design Meeting:** SDOT and the University District Partnership are holding a workshop-style public meeting on April 17 to evaluate streetscape design alternatives for the alley located to the east of University Way between NE 42nd and NE 45th streets. The project was requested by the University District Partnership through the Office of Economic Development's *Only in Seattle* program, which funds community-generated projects to improve the public right-of-way in pay-for-parking business districts. The City has retained SvR Design to lead the design process and facilitate the meeting. The meeting will be held at the University Masonic Lodge, 4338 University Way NE from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.